



City of Huntington Beach
Community Services Commission

**HUNTINGTON CENTRAL PARK COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

Wednesday, February 8, 2017
6:00 PM
Room B-7
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Committee Members

Present: Antonio Benitez; Bridget Kaub; Janis Mantini; Krista Sterud;

Members Absent: Albert Gasparian (excused); Jay Kreitz (ex-officio, excused)

Community Members

Present: Ann Anderson, *Urban Forest/HB Tree Society*; Mary Behrens, *HB Equestrian Center*; Mike Bartusick, *Park Bench Café*; Shari Engel, *Secret Garden*; Steve Engel, *Secret Garden*; Kay Goddard, *Shipley Nature Center*; Tom Livengood, *Shipley Nature Center*; Kathy May, *Lakeview Café/Sports Complex Concessions*; Juana Mueller, *Secret Garden*; Jean Nagy, *Urban Forest/HB Tree Society*

Staff Present: Janeen Laudenback, David Dominguez;
Charlene Gomez

Committee Chair, Commissioner Kaub, called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was said, and Gomez call roll.

Dominguez welcomed Commissioners and the Community Members. He said that it's new to combine the Commission's Huntington Central Park Committee with Community Members of Central Park. He asked for introductions, at which time the Community Members introduced themselves, providing brief background on their park involvement.

Public Comments

Betty Reinertson said she has been a park volunteer for 10 years. In her opinion, those who use walkers find it difficult to walk from the temporary lot down to the nature center. She believes the parking lot should be moved to a lower level nearer to the nature center. Ms. Reinertson also feels the children and those with disabilities who attend the nature center for educational purposes would benefit from a drop off near the gate. She is also in support of lighting the parking lot for safety.

Grace Winchell voiced concern regarding encroaching further into the park with a larger parking lot. She feels it should stay where it is near Goldenwest, however, it should be upgraded.

ESTABLISHMENT OF REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

Dominguez said the purpose of this item is to set a regular scheduled meeting on the second Wednesday at 5:00 pm, just prior to the Community Services Commission meeting. Dominguez stated that these meetings are public meetings and therefore subject to Brown Act postings. Discussion continued on the date and time suggested. Committee Chair Kaub said that if Committee finds that the proposed time does not work in the future, an alternate schedule will be considered. Dominguez said that other meeting arrangements will be made as necessary, for example, he stated that some meetings may take place onsite. Steve Engel suggested that information may be shared in advance of the meeting to assist with time management; however, Dominguez reminded Committee of Brown Act restrictions on communication outside of the posted meeting by a majority of the board. Kaub said that if there is information to share that it be sent to the department for proper posting. There was a group consensus on the scheduled date and time for the committee meetings to be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:00 pm.

PERMANENT PARKING LOT

Dominguez provided a handout and gave background as to how the Committee arrived at this point. He said that the first time the "permanent lot" issue went to Commission was November 31, 2013, as a study item only at that time. On February 12, 2014 the design of a larger parking lot was presented to Commission for approval, however, they denied the plan but approved the concept of a permanent lot. Dominguez reviewed the handout information, including items Commission discussed at their April 8, 2015 meeting, which included tying the parking lot in with the traffic signal, the needs for a drop off area and bus parking. Commission directed staff to come up with four concepts. The four concepts consisted of looking at paving the existing lot, tying the parking lot in with the traffic signal, the need for a bus drop off area for the nature center, and looking at a bus drop off at Goldenwest Street. The concept that came out of the meeting was to make the parking lot permanent, but keep it within the parameter of the temporary lot. Dominguez continued to review the process before Commission, and their direction for the concept design. Dominguez said that Commission motioned at their January 11, 2017 meeting to refer this item to the Huntington Central Park Committee for further review and discussion. Dominguez reviewed the additional information and items for consideration, and the process that will follow after Committee has made their recommendations to Commission.

Kay Goddard spoke regarding the concept plan and asked about the cost of the initial plan. Dominguez stated that it would be much more. A discussion ensued on the various versions of the plan and costs of a smaller lot versus the originally proposed larger lot. Laudenback suggested that this meeting be a brainstorming session, that staff will make a list of what is important to Committee and the Community Members.

Kay Goddard suggested flipping the lot and connecting it to the existing driveway.

Juana Mueller's recommendation is to not look at just the parking lot, but to take the past 40-years into consideration and look at the best scenario for the park over the next 40-years.

Shari Engel said that Shipley Nature Center needs a parking lot to guarantee that the Center will stay open.

Jean Nagy suggested moving the parking lot down. She also discussed bio swells, pavers and eco-friendly design.

Steve Engel asked about the acreage of the current lot. Dominguez said that it's 0.6 acres. Dominguez discussed the various issues including raptor mitigation.

Committee Chair Kaub summarized that concerns would be to 1) move the small lot down with the connection to the driveway and ADA access; 2) study existing small lot where it is, considering ADA access and ingress/egress; and 3) review legalities due to settlement agreement and budgetary limits.

Commissioner Mantini asked how the disabled are serviced in the lot. Dominguez responded that staff are working on a concept design that will meet ADA standards.

Kay Goddard said that accessibility needs to be addressed for the northeast section of the park and nature center for the disabled and those with strollers.

Laudenback summarized that that staff will look at the possibility of moving the parking lot down, study the existing parking lot, and look at the existing parking lot with ADA and egress.

Kay Goddard said she would like to start a collaborative program with kids and the seniors.

Juana Mueller said that the "Shipley to Shore Trail" can start from the lot if it were moved lower.

Shari Engel asked for a diagram with lighting and the entry to the temporary lot, and the cost. Laudenback said that staff needed a clear direction from the Community Members before costs could be put together.

Mike Bartusick asked about contact phone numbers for when there are issues after hours. Mr. Bartusick also addressed staffing for the park, parking lot maintenance issues and an enclosed patio for the Park Bench. He said that the volunteers are doing a wonderful job of cleaning up the park.

Mary Behrens also requested a copy of the contact phone numbers. Laudenback said she can provide concessionaires with information on the Police Dept. Task Force and where concessionaires can call when there are issues. Ms. Behrens addressed issued regarding the trail and raptor areas. She asked about encyclopedia lots, and the homeless. Dominguez said that the Office of Business Development monitors the lots

to see when they come up for sale, and funds are set aside every year in the Park Fund in case a lot becomes available.

Kathy May said parking is an issue, especially when there is an event at the park. She also discussed the homeless issue. Laudenback explained some of the restrictions that P.D. faces in regard to removing the homeless population from the parks.

Jean Nagy suggested rubberized asphalt on Goldenwest Street for noise reduction at the Central Park, Shipley's Nature Center and the Equestrian Center.

Shari Engel asked if a sign could be installed directing visitors to the nature center. Dominguez responded that the City is in the process of implementing a way-finding program and Shipley Nature Center will be included.

Committee Chair Kaub asked about the permit process to go into Central Park to clear the brush. Laudenback said that there is \$200,000 in the CIP with \$100,000 earmarked for Central Park clean-up.

Steve Engel asked about items in the strategic plan and if there is a budget for those items. Laudenback said that this year more funds were assigned to Central Park issues. She said that a priority list needs to be created.

Jean Nagy asked about the fence on the John Thomas property. Laudenback said it's going slow but legal is working on it.

Shari Engel asked staff to discuss irrigation issues with Public Works. Many trees have been lost and need to be replaced, but they will need irrigation.

Laudenback and Dominguez thanked the Committee and the Community Members for the dialog and their time.

With no further business, Committee Chair Kaub adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Submitted by:

David C. Dominguez
Secretary, Community Services Commission

By: Charlene Gomez, Recording Secretary